in the area of mainstreaming Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy *inter-alia* covering the areas of education, research, clinical practice, medicinal plants and drug standardisation. Recommendations which are received from time to time are examined and implemented where feasible.

Mercy killing of people

3061. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the views of Government in regard to mercy killing of the terminally ill people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): In India, mercy killing of terminally ill people is not permitted yet, even if on life support stage.

Patenting of Argapyrin

†3062. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have patented Agrapyrin, the Ayurvedic medicine, which is prepared with garlic and onion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

NOCs to Medical and Dental Colleges

3063. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) which States have given No Objection Certificates to various institutions to start Medical and Dental Colleges in the country from 2001 onwards;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) how many of these No Objection Certificates have been issued by the Karnataka Government for starting new medical and dental colleges; and

(c) the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) One of the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Regulation of Medical Council of India and Dental Council of India is that the person desirous to start a medical/dental college has obtained Essentiality Certificate from the concerned State Government regarding desirability and feasibility of having proposed medical/dental college. Grant of Essentiality Certificate is the concern of the State Governments. As per the proposals received under the above Regulation State Governments of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have issued such Essentiality Certificates recently.

(b) and (c) Five proposals alongwith the Essentiality Certificates given by Government of Karnataka for establishment of medical colleges were received by the Government. These proposals have been returned as the same were not fulfilling the other qualifying criteria prescribed for the purpose.

Development of Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh

3064. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had allocated funds for development of Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh;

(b) if so, what was the purpose and its utilisation; and

(c) whether the Ministry propose to help in renovation of the oldest Medical College of North-Eastern Region and its hospital?